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**OFFICE OF PETITIONS**

In re Patent No. 6,770,724  
Issue Date: August 3, 2004  
Application No.: 09/783,719  
Filed: February 16, 2001  
Attorney Docket No.: AFB00563

ON PETITION

This is a decision on the petition, filed December 3, 2008, under 37 CFR 1.378(c) to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of the 3.5-year maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The patent issued August 3, 2004. The grace period for paying the 3.5-year maintenance fee expired at midnight August 3, 2008. Therefore, since the petition was filed within twenty-four months after the six-month grace period provided in 37 CFR 1.362(e), this petition was timely filed under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.378(c).

Accordingly, the 3.5-year maintenance fee of \$980.00 along with the surcharge of \$1640.00 was received on December 3, 2008, and is accepted. The above-identified patent is hereby reinstated as of the mail date of this decision.

Telephone inquiries concerning this matter may be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3222.

Kenya A. McLaughlin  
Petitions Attorney  
Office of Petitions